

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0061] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

With reference to Figures 6 through 9, the elbow 22 may include an attachment portion 62 that may be sized to frictionally but removably engage the rear end of the inlet port 54 and a body portion 64 that turns the incoming air flow in a desired manner as will be discussed in greater detail, below. The body portion 64 may be sized so as not to choke or diffuse the air flow that is provided through the inlet port 54. The interior of the dirt cup 20 (i.e., a cross section taken perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the dirt cup 20) may be smooth and at least somewhat circular in shape (i.e., lacking sharp corners - see, Figure 7) so as to promote the swirling of the inlet air flow about the longitudinal axis of the dirt cup 20.

Please replace Paragraph [0065] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

One suitable power switch 76 is described in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,544,274, which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Briefly, and with reference to Figure 3, the power switch 76 may include a conventional slide switch 76a that selectively enables or disables the transmission of electric power therethrough to close or open the electrical circuit between the batteries 100 and the motor 70. The slide switch 76a may be fixedly coupled to the circuit board 110 in the particular example provided and employed to move contacts into and out of electrical connection with terminals on the circuit board 110.

Please replace Paragraph [0067] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

The latch mounting structure 164 may be configured to receive therein and support [[a]] the conventional latch mechanism 40 having a latch member 170 for engaging the securing aperture 56a in the housing structure 52 of the dirt cup assembly 12 and a spring (not shown) for biasing the latch member 170 upwardly relative to the housing 32.

Please replace Paragraph [0079] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

With renewed reference to Figure 12, the filter cleaning system 36 may include a cleaning wheel 300 that is housed by the housing 32. With additional reference to Figures 3, 15 and 16, the cleaning wheel 300 may be generally hollow and may include a gripping portion 302, a hub portion 304, a filter drive portion 306 and a filter engagement portion 308. The gripping portion 302 may be an annular ring that may be coupled to the rearward side of the hub portion 304 and which may include a plurality of circumferentially spaced apart recesses 310. The hub portion 304 may define a bearing surface 312 that may be journally supported by the housing 32. The filter drive portion 306 may be formed on a wall 314 that is coupled to the hub portion 304 generally transverse to the bearing surface 312.

Please replace Paragraph [0097] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

With reference to Figures 3 and 8, when the vacuum 10a is operated, the fan assembly 72 expels air from the fan housing 92 which creates a negative pressure differential relative to atmospheric conditions and causes a dirt and debris laden air flow to rush into the dirt cup 20 through the inlet port 54. When coupled to the inlet port 54, the elbow 22 directs the dirt and debris laden air that is flowing through the inlet port 54 toward the interior wall of the dirt cup 20, causing the dirt and debris laden air to swirl about the interior of the dirt cup. In the particular example provided, the outlet 500 of the elbow 22 is configured to direct the dirt and debris laden air flow in a direction to the side and rear of the dirt cup 20 (*i.e., the outlet 500 of the elbow 22 is configured to change a flow path of air exiting the inlet port 54 by an angle of less than 90 degrees*). Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate from this disclosure, however, that the elbow 22 may be configured to direct the dirt and debris laden air flow in a direction generally transverse to the inlet port 54, that the outlet 500 of the elbow 22 may or may not lie in the same "plane" as the inlet port 54 (*i.e., the centerline of the elbow 22 at the outlet 500 may or may not lie in a plane that is contains the centerline of the inlet port 54*) and that any portion of the elbow 22 between the outlet 22 and the inlet port 54 may be formed with a desired shape (e.g., helical) to enhance the swirling effect produced by the elbow 22 and the dirt cup 20.